COVID-19 Telehealth Program Update



February 17, 2021

COVID-19 Telehealth Program Background

 As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress appropriated \$200 million to the FCC to support efforts of health care providers to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

 The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020;
the FCC established the COVID-19 Telehealth Program on April 2, 2020.



COVID-19 Telehealth Program: Round 1 Background

July 8, 2020

WCB approved 539 applications and awarded the full \$200 million in funding commitments

December 31, 2020

Deadline for round 1 funding awardees to purchase the connected devices or begin to implement services

July 31, 2021

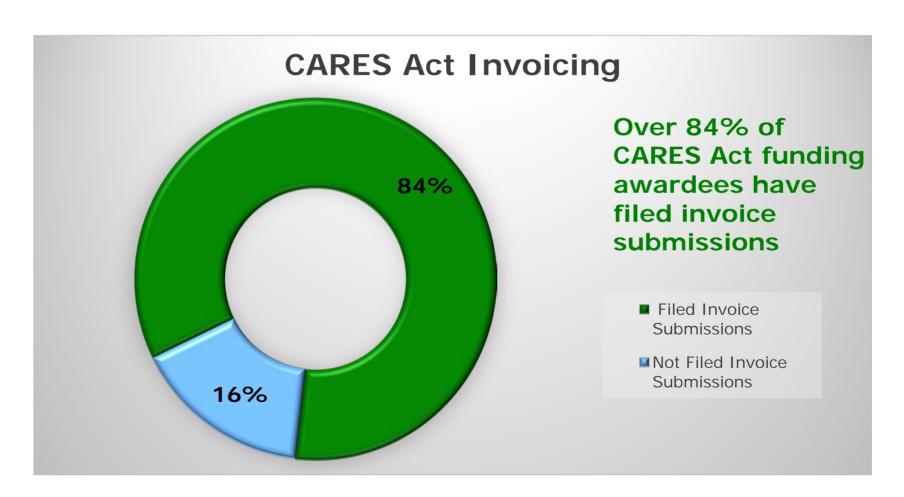
Round 1 funding awardees must file their request for reimbursement

January 31, 2022

Post-program feedback reports due



COVID-19 Telehealth Program: Round 1 Progress





COVID-19 Telehealth Program: Round 2 Background

- As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Act), Congress appropriated an additional \$249.95 million to the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program. The Act was signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- The Act directed the FCC, within 10 days of the Act's enactment, to issue a public notice establishing a 10-day comment period during which the FCC would seek comment on (1) the metrics used to evaluate applications for this second tranche of funding and (2) how to treat applications filed during the initial round of funding.



COVID-19 Telehealth Program: Round 2 Progress

- The Bureau released a Public Notice on January 6, 2021, which set a comment filing deadline of January 19, 2021.
 Over 80 comments were filed and reviewed by FCC staff.
- On February 2, 2021, the FCC adopted a Report and Order finding it is in the public interest to use the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to administer the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.
- Next Step: Commission Report and Order establishing criteria for Round 2 funding and providing additional information about the application review process.

